

CAPITAL REMOVAL QUESTION.

The Matter of Rules and Assessments Settled by the Committee.

The Democratic state executive committee had a lively time last Friday. Four hours were consumed in talking, but the orators accomplished what they most desired, which was the payment of \$1 instead of \$2 for the inspectors of the primaries. Major Healy, of Volusia, made the hit of the day. He did not believe in cheap labor and made a speech that would have proved a delight to the labor organizations.

While the major was enlisted in a good cause, the committee decided after a considerable wrangle to pay the inspectors \$1 each. Nothing else was practically done in the afternoon.

At the evening session J. Emmett Wolfe, of Escambia, brought up the matter of expense of holding the primaries in the capital removal contest. Mr. Rawls, of Tallahassee, offered a resolution that the amount be made \$2,500. Mr. McCreary, of Alachua, wanted it to read \$5,000, and it was nearly 10 o'clock before the matter was settled. Members became weary, took off their coats and vigorously used palm leaf fans, while over twenty orators discussed the proposition. Some desired \$8,000, while others did not want the cities aspiring for the capital to pay a cent. Frank Clark vacated the chair and made a protest against what he alleged to be an endeavor to make Jacksonville pay the entire cost. The Duval county man grew eloquent and denounced in bitter terms the effort.

M. L. Williams, of DeSoto, arose, and in an impressive speech declared that he had heretofore taken no sides in the capital removal fight, but if the members of the committee declined to treat Jacksonville fairly he would stump the state for that city. His speech had a marvelous effect on the members, and it was decided that the sum of \$5,000 be paid by all the cities that remained as candidates. If Jacksonville was the only city that remained as a candidate the entire sum would have to be raised by that city, but if the five cities now aspiring should remain in the contest the assessment would be \$1,000 each.

J. Emmett Wolfe, of Escambia, offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That the various cities which are candidates for the state capital site be allowed to make their own campaign free from the control of the Democratic executive committee, and that the capital removal question shall not be discussed at any meeting held under the auspices of this committee.

Resolved, That the chairman and secretary of this committee, together with five members to be appointed by the chair, constitute a campaign committee to have absolute control of all matters pertaining to the election of the Democratic national and state nominees.

The rules and regulations to govern the primaries touching upon the capital removal now read as follows:

"For the purpose of defraying the expense of this primary election, including pay of managers, printing, providing tickets, ballot boxes, etc., the various cities desiring to enter the contest for the state capital site are hereby assessed the sum of \$1,000 each, provided that if less than five cities qualify for said primary election, then the cities that do qualify shall pay pro rata such additional amount as may be necessary to make up the sum of \$5,000, said amounts to be paid by said cities into the treasury of the state executive committee at the time when they file notice of the intention of said city to enter such race, and the name of no city shall be certified to the various county executive committees as candidates in said state capital contest unless the treasurer of the state committee shall have certified to the chairman of the state committee that said city's pro rata has been so paid into his hands, and no vote for a city that has not so paid its pro rata assessment shall be counted in said contest.

The money paid in by such cities as qualify for said race shall be distributed by the chairman of the state executive committee among the different counties in proportion to the number of election precincts in such county, and the balance of the money necessary to defray the expenses of said primary in any county shall be provided by the several county committees by assessments on the various candidates, or in such other manner as they shall deem best.

The county executive committee in each county shall, through its chairman, ten days before the holding of said primary, certify to the chairman of the state committee the number of qualified white Democratic electors in each precinct in each county.

Upon the final canvass of the votes cast in said primary, if it shall appear that, by error or fraud, more votes have been cast in any county precinct than could legitimately be cast in such county or precinct, the state executive committee shall have power to correct the returns from said county or precinct, so as to justly declare the result of said election.

Each candidate for the state capital site and each candidate for office being voted for shall have the right to place one watcher and challenger at the polls in each precinct in every county, which said watcher and challenger shall be entitled to be present during the entire time the polls are open to challenge voters,

and also to witness the counting of the vote and certifying of the results after the polls are closed; ballots, poll list, returns and other records of the election shall be preserved by the county executive committee after the primary has been held.

The primary polling place shall in each precinct be as near as practicable to the place of holding the general election on said day.

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A FEW OBJECTIONS.

Features in the Primary Rules That Need Looking After.

Kissimmee Valley Gazette:

The primary rules and regulations submitted to the Democratic state executive committee and now under consideration by that body, contain one or two objectionable features, which it is advisable to point out beforehand.

The qualifications for voting are that the voters shall be "white Democratic electors, who, in the general election shall have voted for the candidates of the Democratic state convention." It will be observed that nothing is said about the county ticket; the only requirement being that the elector shall be a white Democrat who voted for the state and national tickets, which were nominated by the Democratic state convention. This opens the door entirely too wide and should be changed to include the county ticket.

Besides voting upon the questions of state capital and constitutional convention the following officers are to be voted for: Adjutant-general; state chemist; state attorney in the second, third, fourth and seventh circuits; judge and solicitor of the criminal court of record in the counties of Duval, Escambia, Hillsboro, Orange and Volusia; five county commissioners in each county; supervisor of registration in each county; harbor masters and timber custodians in such counties as have them. All these officers to be nominated on November 6th. Now, many of these officials, the county commissioners in particular, will not be appointed till next spring, 6 or 7 months after the primary. We believe it a mistake to make the nomination so many months ahead. There is no necessity to call the primary for county commissioners at any rate before March.

The returns of the primary are to be canvassed on the third day after the primary. Three days is too short for some of the sparsely settled counties. Under the present election law the counties of Monroe, Dade, Brevard, Manatee, Osceola and DeSoto are allowed six days anyhow, and in case of necessity twenty days.

The most objectionable feature of all, however, is the following:

"Each candidate for the state capital site, and each candidate for office being voted for shall have the right to place one watcher and challenger at the polls in each precinct in every county, which said watcher and challenger shall be entitled to be present during the entire time the polls are open to challenge voters and also to witness the counting of the vote and certifying of the results, after the polls are closed."

The number of candidates will vary from nine to twelve or more in the several counties. This means that, under the above call, from 18 to 24 or more men may be permitted to congregate around the ballot boxes while the voting is going on. There are many precincts in the state that only poll that number of Democratic votes. Under this clause the entire voting strength of these small precincts would be at liberty to sit with the inspectors. The very idea of such a contingency is preposterous. Under no circumstances should the committee adopt the clause. It is utterly repugnant to the letter and spirit of the state election law, which carefully safeguards the privacy of the elector and the freedom from influence an interference of the inspectors. The mode of challenging should be the same as that prevailing in state elections. The challenger states his challenge to the deputy sheriff, who is in charge of admission to the polls, to be communicated by that official to the inspectors, who then proceed to determine the challenge. To adopt the clause in its present state would be to turn the polling booth in precincts where excitement runs high over to a rowdy mob, and to subject the inspectors to intimidation and noisy interruption.

There is danger in that clause.

A Night of Terror.

"Awful anxiety was felt for the widow of the brave Gen. Burnham, of Machias, Me., when the doctors said she could not live till morning," writes Mrs. S. H. Lincoln, who attended her that fearful night. "All thought she must soon die from pneumonia, but she begged for Dr. King's New Discovery, saying it had more than once saved her life, and had cured her of consumption. After three small doses she slept easily all night, and its further use completely cured her." This marvelous medicine is guaranteed to cure all throat, chest and lung diseases. Only 50c and \$1. Trial bottles free at B. R. Wilson & Son's drug store.

NOTICE OF ELECTION.

Whereas, The legislature of 1899, under the constitution of 1885, of the state of Florida, did pass four joint resolutions proposing amendments to the constitution of the state of Florida, and the same were agreed to by a vote of three-fifths of all the members elected to each house; that the vote on said joint resolutions were entered upon their respective journals, with the yeas and nays thereon, and they did determine and direct that the said joint resolutions be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election in November, 1900.

Now, therefore, I, Jno. L. Crawford, secretary of state, of the state of Florida, do hereby give notice that a

GENERAL ELECTION

will be held in each county in Florida on Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November, A. D. 1900, the said Tuesday being the

SIXTH DAY OF NOVEMBER,

for the ratification or rejection of the said joint resolutions proposing amendments to the constitution of the state of Florida, viz:

Article XV.

That the following amendment to the constitution of the state of Florida be and the same is hereby agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election A. D. 1900 for ratification or rejection:

Section 4, Article VII, of the constitution of the state of Florida is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Section 4. Where any senatorial district is composed of two or more counties, the counties of which such district consists shall not be entirely separated by any county belonging to another district. Any new county that may be created shall be entitled to one member in the house of representatives, in excess of the limit prescribed in section 2 of this article until the apportionment following next thereafter, and shall be assigned when created to one of the adjoining senatorial districts as shall be determined by the legislature.

Article XVI.

That the following amendment to the constitution of the state of Florida be and is hereby agreed to, and shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, A. D. 1900, for ratification or rejection:

Section 25 of Article III of said constitution be and is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Section 25. The legislature shall provide by general law for incorporating such educational, agricultural, mechanical, mining, transportation, mercantile and other useful companies or associations as may be deemed necessary; but it shall not pass any special law on any such subject, and any such special law shall be of no effect; provided, however, that nothing herein shall preclude special legislation as to a university or the public schools, or as to a ship canal across the state.

Article XVII.

That the following amendment to the constitution of the state of Florida be and the same is hereby agreed to, and shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election in November, A. D. 1900, for ratification or rejection:

Section 5 of Article VIII of the constitution shall be and is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Section 5. Immediately upon the ratification of this amendment the county commissioners of the several counties of this state shall divide their respective counties into five commissioner's districts, to be numbered respectively from one to five, inclusive, and each district shall be, as nearly as possible, equal in proportion to population, and thereafter there shall be in each of such districts a county commissioner who shall be elected by the qualified electors of said county at the time and place of voting for other county officers, and shall hold his office for two years. The powers, duties and compensation of such county commissioners shall be prescribed by law; provided, that nothing herein shall effect the terms of commissioners holding office at the time of such division; provided, further, that all vacancies occurring by limitations of terms, or from death, resignation, or otherwise, before the election of 1902, shall be filled by appointment by the governor as now provided by law.

Article XVIII.

That the following amendment to the constitution of the state of Florida be and the same is hereby agreed to, and shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election in November, A. D. 1900, for ratification or rejection:

Section 12 of Article XVI of the constitution of the state of Florida is amended to read as follows:

Section 12. The present seal of the state shall remain the seal of the state of Florida. The state flag shall be of the following proportions and description: Depth to be three-fourths length of fly. The seal of the state of diameter one-third the fly, in the center of a white ground. Red bars, in width one-eighth the length of fly extending from each corner toward the center to the outer rim of the seal.

The votes cast in compliance with said proposed amendments, and the canvass, declarations and returns thereof, shall be subjected to the same regulations and restrictions as are provided by law for general elections in the state of Florida.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the great seal of the state of Florida, at Tallahassee, the capital, this, the first day of August, A. D. 1900.

JOHN L. CRAWFORD,

Secretary of State.

To J. P. BROWN, Sheriff Brevard County.

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